

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/604,981
Docket No.: 9892-US-PA

Remarks

To response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects species (1), drawn to claims 1, 3-4 and 10, characterized by Figure 4, with traverse.

According to Chapter 803 in the MPEP, an application may properly be required to be restricted to one of two or more claimed inventions only if they are able to support separate patents and they are either independent or distinct. Further, to establish a prima facie case for restricting the claims of an application, the Examiner needs to (1) provide reasons why the inventions as claimed are distinct, (2) explain why the distinct inventions must be restricted on the basis of (a) separate classification, (b) separate status in the art, or (c) a different field of search. Moreover, claims to be restricted to different species must be mutually exclusive. A restriction requirement imposed on Species I, II, III and IV is not proper for at least the reasons that these claimed inventions are not able to support separate patents.

The alleged species (1) (corresponding to claims 1, 3-4, 10, Fig. 4), the alleged species (2) (corresponding to claims 2-4, 11, Fig. 5), the alleged species (3) (corresponding to claims 5-6, 8-9, 12-13, Fig. 7) and the alleged species (6) (corresponding to claims 5, 7-9, 12, 14, Fig. 8) of the present invention claim a pixel structure with the provision of a data line with a branch-like structure in the area of the above scan line. The branch-like structure includes but not limited to a plurality of branching data lines or a repair line branched from the data line, so that a short circuit of a data line can be repaired by severing the short circuiting section of that

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particular branch or connecting one end or both ends of the repair line to the severed data line. The alleged species (1) & (2) of the invention are drawn to the data line in the area above the scan line branches out into a plurality of subsidiary lines. Alternatively, species (2) teaches the width of the scan line in the area underneath the data line is smaller than the width of the scan line in other areas. The alleged species (3) and (4) of the invention are drawn to a repair line branched from the data line in the area above the scan line, wherein, species (3) teaches one end of the repair line has no electrical connection with the data line, while species (4) teaches both ends of the repair line has no electrical connection with the data line.

In summary, all alleged species embraces the essential characteristics of a data line with a branch-like structure in the area of the above scan line. The alleged species (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the present invention are thus neither mutually exclusive, independent nor distinct, and they are unable to support separate patents. Instead, these alleged species vary only in breadth and scope. A restriction to one thereof is thereby not proper.

Further, the Restriction Requirement indicates that none of the claims are generic. However, if a claim is to be identified as a generic or linking claim, Applicant respectfully submits that that claims 1 and 10 are qualified as a generic or a linking claim embracing both alleged species (1) and alleged species (2), while claims 5 and 12 are qualified as a generic or a linking claim embracing both alleged species (3) and alleged species (4).

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No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Account no. 50-2620 (Order No. 9892-US-PA).

Respectfully submitted,

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